

Appl. No. 10/735,207

Amdt. dated February 9, 2007

Reply to Office action of December 1, 2006

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing energy usage at an end user site comprising the steps of:

- determining a cost for generating energy at the end user site;
- determining the cost of purchasing energy from another energy supplier;
- establishing a set of end-user energy policies for generating and using energy at the end-user facility; and
- generating a set of energy supply alternatives based on the energy user requirements and the cost of the energy alternatives;
- selecting an energy alternative that provides optimal energy usage, said selection being based on said established end-user energy policies;
- generating energy at the end-user facility, and using said generated energy as desired by the end-user; and
- selling any excess generated energy to other end-users or to energy suppliers by placing information about available energy in a location accessible to potential energy purchasers; negotiating the price and quantity of the energy with a potential energy purchaser; and consummating the transaction with the potential energy purchaser.

~~Claim 9 (Canceled) The method as described in claim 8 further comprising after said generating step, the step of selecting an energy alternative that provides optimal energy usage, said selection being based on said established end-user energy policies.~~

10. The method as described in claim 9 wherein said end-user energy policy is based on the lowest energy cost and the closest available time to a preferred time of the user.

11. The method as described in claim 9 further comprising after said selection step, steps for implementing a pre-programmed operation of the particular appliance or application using energy from the selected energy option.

12. The method as described in claim 11 wherein said implementing steps are automatically performed.

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Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 8 14 wherein said negotiating step comprises: receiving an offer from a potential purchaser to buy energy, said offer containing a desired energy quantity and purchase price; determining whether to accept the offer, reject the offer or to submit a counter offer to the potential purchaser; and submitting a response to the potential energy purchaser.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 8 9 further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user the steps of: submitting an offer to purchase energy to the selected energy supplier; receiving a response to the energy purchase offer from the selected energy supplier; and consummating the transaction with the energy purchaser.

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Claim 24 (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for optimizing energy usage at an end user site comprising:

instructions for determining a cost for generating energy at the end user site;

instructions for determining the cost of purchasing energy from another energy supplier;

instructions for establishing a schedule for generating and using energy at the user end; and

instructions for generating a set of energy supply alternatives based on the energy user requirements and the cost of the energy alternatives;

instructions for selecting an energy alternative that provides optimal energy usage, said selection being based on said established end-user energy policies;

instructions for generating energy at the end-user site; using said generated energy as desired by the end-user; and

instructions for selling any excess generated energy to other end-users or to energy suppliers, said selling excess generated energy instructions further comprising instructions for placing information about available energy in a location accessible to potential energy purchasers; instructions for negotiating the price and quantity of the energy with a potential energy purchaser; and instructions for consummating the transaction with the potential energy purchaser.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 24 25 further comprising after said selecting instructions, instructions for implementing a pre-programmed operation of the particular appliance or application using energy from the selected energy option.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Canceled)

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Claim 29 (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 24
28 wherein said energy negotiating instructions comprise instructions for:

receiving an offer from a potential purchaser to buy energy, said offer containing
a desired energy quantity and purchase price;

determining whether to accept the offer, reject the offer or to submit a counter
offer to the potential purchaser; and

submitting a response to the potential energy purchaser.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 24
25 further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user:

instructions for submitting an offer to purchase energy to the selected energy
supplier;

instructions for receiving a response to the energy purchase offer from the
selected energy supplier; and

instructions for consummating the transaction with the energy purchaser.